

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the following paragraphs in the Brief Description of the Drawings:

Figure 1 is a side view of an apparatus according to the invention; and

Figure 2 further illustrates an embodiment of the invention having four compensation cylinders; and

Please insert the following paragraph after the description of Figure 2 in the Brief Description of the Drawings:

Figure 3 further illustrates an enlarged view of the V-ring, die plate, blanking punch, and counter-holder of Figure 1.

Please replace the following paragraph at page 6, lines 13-16 as follows:

The counterholder 16 is guided in a die plate 17, the blanking punch 9 pressing the workpiece to be cut out into this die plate 17, in the course of which the counterholder 16 gives way (See Figure 3).